

March 3, 2022

ITEM NO.: TWO

FILE NO.: NR2022-002

NAME: Calvary Cemetery

LOCATION: Corner of Asher Avenue and South Woodrow Street

OWNER/AUTHORIZED AGENT/APPLICANT:

Mason Toms,
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1101 North Street
Little Rock, AR



Figure 1 Asher entrance to Calvary Cemetery

BACKGROUND:

Location

The subject property is located at the corner of Asher Avenue and S. Woodrow Street. The property's legal description is "Beginning at a point at the northwest corner of the intersection of Woodrow Street and Asher Avenue proceed approximately 0.16 of a mile west, thence approximately 0.08 of a mile north, thence approximately 0.21 of a mile east, thence approximately 0.08 of a mile to point of beginning. This covers sections A-J, sections V-Y, and the Porto Rican (Puerto Rican) section, which is partially in Section Q."

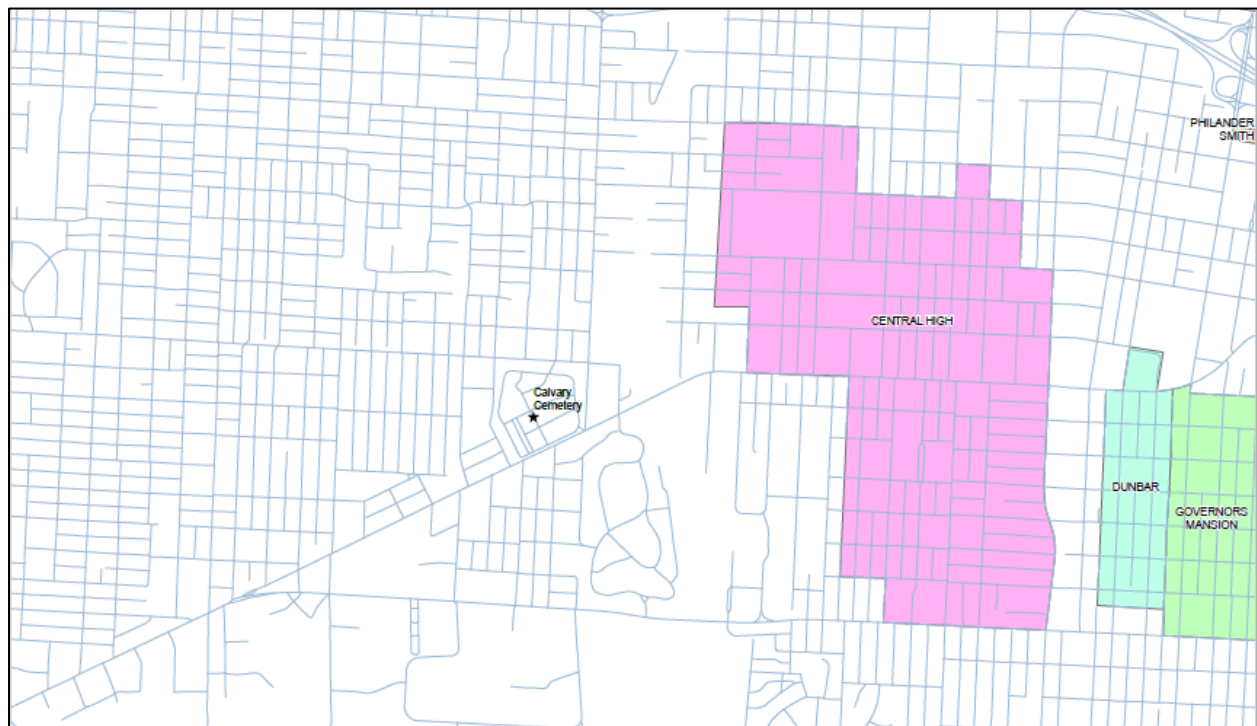


Figure 2 Calvary Cemetery location relevant to surrounding historic districts

A. PROPOSAL/REQUEST/APPLICANT'S STATEMENT:

Nomination of the Calvary Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission will review the Nomination of the Calvary Cemetery to the National Register.

The Nomination states:

“Calvary Cemetery is the oldest and largest Catholic cemetery in Arkansas, established around 1871. The pentagonal shaped cemetery is located at the northwest corner of South Woodrow Street and Asher Avenue.”

“Calvary Cemetery contains 7,262 burials and covers 30 acres. [...] The areas being nominated cover sections A-J, section V-Y, and the Porto Rican (Puerto Rican) section, which are partially in section Q. These sections total approximately 15 acres on the south side of the cemetery and includes 2,705 burials. Out of the total, 2,145 are considered historic and 136 are unreadable or uninscribed. The earliest death date recorded on Find a Grave for Calvary Cemetery is 1846, and there are 14 burials altogether that occurred prior to the establishment date of 1871.”

“[The cemetery] contains the burials of some of the earliest members of the Catholic community in Little Rock. The cemetery chronicles the history of the influx of Catholics to Arkansas, their role in the development of Catholic institutions and in the growth of Little Rock. The funerary architecture, while not unique to cemeteries in the state, was considered to appropriately express the mourning traditions of the Catholic faith. Specific areas in the cemetery were set aside for groups instrumental in the organization of educational and sacred bodies, or those who were aided by those groups.”

“The Historic Section of Calvary Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register [...] with local significance for its role as an intact and well-kept cemetery dedicated to providing burial space for the Catholic community of Little Rock, and, as such, maintains the history of immigration patterns and the growth of the Catholic faith. Period of significance is 1846-1971.”

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS:

N/A

C. NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENTS:

All neighborhood associations registered with The City of Little Rock that surround the site were notified of the public hearing.

D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Criteria Consideration D and Criteria Consideration A.

Criterion A is defined as: Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion C is defined as: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Criterion D is defined as: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Programs has set forth the "Arkansas Certified Local Government Procedures." In it, sections are titled: "Introduction", "Eligibility for participation in the Certified Local Government Program", "Process for Certification of Local Governments", "Process for monitoring Certified local Governments," "Certified Local Governments Participation in the National Register Nomination Process", and "Transfer of funds to Certified Local Governments."

In Section II Eligibility for Participation in the Certified Local Government Program subsection C Local Historic Preservation Program, II C. 2. f) states that one of the Duties of local preservation commissions shall include:

"Reviewing all proposed National Registration nominations for properties within the boundaries of the CLG's jurisdiction. When a commission reviews a nomination or other action that will impact properties which are normally evaluated by a professional in a specific discipline, at that discipline is not represented on the commission, the commission must seek expertise in that discipline before rendering its decision."

In Section V Certified Local Government participation in the national register nomination process, sub section B CLG involvement in the National Register Process, the procedures state:

A. CLGs shall submit a report (available for public inspection) to the AHPP regarding the eligibility of each property or district within its jurisdiction proposed for nomination to the National Register.

1. The report shall include recommendations of the local preservation commission and the chief elected official.

2. The report should concentrate on the property's eligibility under the National Register criteria.

3. Failure to submit reports on the eligibility of properties nominated within the jurisdiction of the CLG after the AHPP has informed the CLG of a pending nomination will be considered during the periodic performance evaluation.

B. CLG involvement in the National Register process

1. Within 60 calendar days of receipt of the nomination, the CLG shall inform the AHPP by submission of a report (see section V-A) as to its opinion regarding the eligibility of the property. The CLG shall also inform the property owner(s) using National Register criteria for evaluation, as to its opinion regarding the eligibility of the property.

An excerpt from the CLG agreement

2. In the event a nomination is received by the AHPP before submission to the CLG, the AHPP will forward a copy of the completed nomination to the CLG within 30 calendar days of receipt.

3. If both the commission and chief elected official recommend that a property not be nominated because it does not meet the National Register criteria for eligibility, the CLG will so inform the property owner(s) and the State Historic Preservation Officer, the property will then not be nominated unless an appeal is filed with the SHPO in accordance with appeal procedures outlined in 36 CFR 60. Appeals must be received by the SHPO within 30 calendar days of the date the property owner receives notification by certified mail that the property has been determined ineligible for nomination by both the CLG and the Chief elected official. This is in accordance with Section 101(c) 2 of the NHPA.

4. If the commission or the chief elected official of the CLG recommend that a property should be nominated, the nomination will be scheduled for submission to the Arkansas State Review Board. Scheduling will be in accordance with notification time constraints as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

5. The Arkansas State Review Board, after considering all opinions, including those of the commission and the chief elected official of the CLG, shall make its recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer. Either the local preservation commission or the chief elected official may appeal the SHPOs final decision.

6. When a National Register nomination, that has been reviewed by a commission, is submitted to the National Park Service for review and listing, all reports or comments from the local officials will be submitted along with the nomination.

7. The AHPP and the CLG will work together to provide ample opportunity for public participation in the nomination of properties to the National register. All reports submitted by the CLG to the AHPP regarding the eligibility of properties shall include assurances of public input. The CLG shall retain a list of all persons contacted during the evaluation period and note comments that were received. If a public meeting was held, a list of those attending shall be included in the report.

An excerpt from the CLG agreement

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ITEM NO.: TWO (Cont.)

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

723 West Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1334
Phone: (501) 371-4790
Fax: (501) 399-3435
www.littlerock.gov

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REVIEW

Name and Address of property:

Calvary Cemetery, Asher Ave & S. Woodrow St., Little Rock, AR 72204

Name of Owner:

Diocese of Little Rock

Project Sponsor:

Mason Toms, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

CLG Name:

City of Little Rock, Arkansas

Date of Public Hearing by CLG:

March 3rd, 2022

Applicable Criteria:

☒ Criterion A (Historic Events)

☐ Criterion B (Important Person)

☒ Criterion C (Architecture)

☒ Criterion D (Archaeological)

The Little Rock Historic District Commission hereby recommends the above stated property for nomination.

Attest:

Chair Date

Secretary/Staff

Date